

for closing Guantanamo. But it's tricky to come up with an alternative that will serve the interests of justice and America's national security.

"Now the President says some of these terrorists should be brought to American soil for trial in our court system. Others," he says, "will be shipped to third countries. But so far, the United States has had little luck getting any other countries to take hardened terrorists."

I think only one of them has been given to another country.

He says, "The administration seems to pride itself"—the Obama administration "seems to pride itself on searching for some kind of middle ground in policies addressing terrorism. They may take comfort in hearing disagreement from opposite ends of the spectrum. If liberals are unhappy about some decisions, and conservatives are unhappy about other decisions, then it may seem to them that the President is on the path of sensible compromise. But in the fight against terrorism, there is no middle ground, and half-measures keep you half exposed. You cannot keep just some nuclear-armed terrorists out of the United States, you must keep every nuclear-armed terrorist out of the United States. Triangulation is a political strategy, not a national security strategy. When just a single clue that goes unlearned, one lead that goes unpursued can bring on catastrophe—it's no time for splitting differences. There is never a good time to compromise when the lives and safety of the American people are in the balance."

He went on to say, "It is much closer to the truth that terrorists hate this country precisely because of the values we profess and seek to live by, not by some alleged failure to do so. Nor are terrorists or those who see them as victims exactly the best judges of America's moral standards, one way or the other. Critics of our policies are given to lecturing on the theme of being consistent with American values.

"But no moral value held dear by the American people obliges public servants to sacrifice innocent lives to spare a captured terrorist from unpleasant things. And when an entire population is targeted by a terror network, nothing is more consistent with American values than to stop them.

"Somehow, when the soul-searching was done and the veil was lifted on the policies of the Bush administration, the public was given less than half the truth. The released memos were carefully redacted." They crossed things out "to leave out references to what our government learned through the methods in question. Other memos, laying out specific terrorist plots that were averted, apparently were not even considered for release. For reasons the administration has yet to explain, they believe the public has a right to know the method of the questions, but not the content of the answers."

And the bottom line, Madam Speaker, is our intelligence agencies have done a great job in protecting this country for the past 8 years ever since 9/11. We should not be hamstringing those, and today I think former Vice President Cheney really told the story the way it ought to be told, and I hope all of my colleagues and every American is paying attention.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KLEIN of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE DEATH OF SPECIALIST MICHAEL YATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. KRATOVIL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KRATOVIL. Madam Speaker, today a native of Maryland's Eastern Shore, Specialist Michael Yates, was laid to rest. Specialist Yates, of Federalsburg, was killed in a senseless act of violence that should serve to shine a brighter light on the mental health of those serving our Nation. Specialist Yates, along with four colleagues, reportedly was shot and killed by a fellow serviceman on duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom at Camp Liberty in Baghdad.

Growing up on the Eastern Shore, Specialist Yates was an avid hunter and fisherman and like many of my constituents held a deep love for his country and a desire to serve in defense of freedom. At the young age of 17, Specialist Yates joined the Army where he was sent to Ft. Knox, Germany, and then to Iraq, where he served as a cavalry scout.

Specialist Yates had recently returned to Federalsburg where he was able to visit with family and friends one last time before returning to Iraq and ultimately to a counseling center at Camp Liberty. It was here that a fellow soldier whom he had reportedly described to his step-father as "a fairly decent guy who had some major issues," shot and killed Specialist Yates.

The death of Specialist Yates and his fellow soldiers must serve as a warning sign that the time is now, especially with an influx of returning veterans to make soldiers' and veterans' mental health a priority and heed Secretary Gates' recommendation to support funding for traumatic brain injury and psychological health exams for our servicemen and -women. Honoring our commitment to those who serve our Nation means offering them not only top-notch medical care for physical injuries, but also first-rate mental health services to help fight the alarming rising trend of suicide and mental illness among veterans.

Honoring our commitment means more than waving our banners and flags at parades. It means putting our money where our collective mouth is. We owe this to Specialist Yates, as well as the friends and families of those involved in this tragic event.

I have introduced a resolution along with fellow colleagues from both sides of the aisle who lost constituents in this incident honoring their service and calling for a greater focus on mental health issues among servicemen and veterans. I urge my colleagues to sign on and support this resolution when it reaches the floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REMEMBERING RICHARD WARREN OF PAT'S COFFEE SHOP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, there is a coffee shop in my district and Richard Warren owned that coffee shop, and to every veteran that walked in the door, he said, Welcome home. And today, tonight, on Memorial Day, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Richard Warren of Mooresville, North Carolina.

He was the owner and operator of Pat's Coffee Shop and a Vietnam veteran. Richard Warren served in the 68th Attack Helicopter Company of the United States Army, and for the last 14 years, Richard ran Pat's Coffee Shop in Mooresville. Now, this is not your ordinary coffee shop. Pat's became known as the most patriotic coffee shop in America. In no time, that little coffee shop became exactly what Richard had envisioned: a gathering place for local veterans. Veterans from all across Iredell County and around the region, even, would come together every day to share their tales and stories—boy, were there some stories—over coffee and a bite to eat.

Before long, veterans started bringing mementos from their time in the service. Richard hung those pictures and memorabilia on the wall and acknowledged every veteran—as I said every veteran who walked in that door got a very honest "welcome home" from Richard Warren. Pat's Coffee Shop became a living shrine to the men and women, the veterans, who risked their lives to defend America.